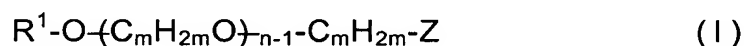


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~The use of Dispersants for aqueous suspensions of solids comprising random comb polymers which are obtainable~~ obtained by free-radical copolymerization according to catalytic chain transfer method (CCT) of a vinylic poly(alkylene oxide) compound (A) of the general formula (I)



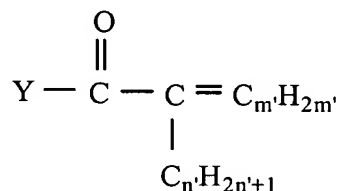
where

R^1 = hydrogen, a C_1 - C_{20} -alkyl radical, a cycloaliphatic C_5 - C_{12} -cycloalkyl radical, a substituted or unsubstituted C_6 - C_{14} -aryl radical,

m = 2 to 4,

n = 1 to 250,

Z =



$\text{Y} = \text{O}$ or NR^2 ,

R^2 = hydrogen, a C_{1-12} -alkyl radical, a C_6 - C_{14} -aryl radical, $-C_mH_{2m}-(O-C_mH_{2m})_{n-1}OR^1$,

$m' = 1$ to 4 and

$n' = 0$ to 2,

with an ethylenically unsaturated monomer compound (B) of the general formula (II),



where

$\text{R}^3 = \text{H}, \text{CH}_3, \text{COOH}$ or a salt thereof, COOR^7 or CONR^7R^7 ,

$\text{R}^4 = \text{H}$, a substituted or unsubstituted $\text{C}_6\text{-C}_{14}$ -aryl radical,

$\text{R}^5 = \text{H}, \text{CH}_3, \text{COOH}$ or a salt thereof, COOR^7 , CONR^7R^7 , a substituted or unsubstituted aryl radical or OR^8 , PO_3H_2 , SO_3H , CONH-R^9 ,

$\text{R}^6 = \text{H}, \text{CH}_3$ or CH_3COOR^7 ,

$\text{R}^7 = \text{H}, \text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-alkyl}, \text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-hydroxyalkyl}, \text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-alkylphosphate}$ or -phosphonate or a salt thereof, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-alkylsulfate}$ or -sulfonate or a salt thereof, $\text{C}_m\text{H}_{2m}-(\text{O}-\text{C}_m\text{H}_{2m})_{n-1}\text{OR}^1$;

$\text{R}^8 =$ acetyl and

$\text{R}^9 = \text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-alkylphosphate}$ or -phosphonate or a salt thereof, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{12}\text{-alkylsulfate}$ or -sulfonate or a salt thereof,

R^3 and R^5 together form $-\text{O}-\text{CO}-\text{O}-$,

~~by the "catalytical chain transfer (CCT)" method, as dispersants for aqueous suspensions of solids.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The use dispersants as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the aryl radicals R^1 are substituted by hydroxyl, carboxyl or/and sulfonic acid groups.

3. (Currently Amended) The use dispersants as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the formula (I), $m = 2$ or 3 and $n = 5$ to 250 .

4. (Currently Amended) The use dispersants as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the formula (I), $m'=1$ and $n'=0$ or 1 .

5. (Currently Amended) The use dispersants as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the formula (II), R^3 and $\text{R}^4 = \text{H}$, $\text{R}^6 = \text{H}$,

CH₃ and R⁵ = COOR⁷, PO₃H₂ or CONH-R⁹-SO₃H.

6. (Currently Amended) The use dispersants as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein in the formula (II), R³ and R⁴ = H, R⁶ = CH₃, R⁵ = COOH or a salt thereof or COOR⁷ and R⁷ = C₁-C₆-hydroxyalkyl.

7. (Currently Amended) The use dispersants as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein R⁵ is a carboxylic acid salt selected from among alkali metal, alkaline earth metal and ammonium salts

8. (Currently Amended) The use dispersants as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the molar ratios of the vinylic poly(alkylene oxide) compound (A) to the ethylenically unsaturated monomer compound (B) have been set to from 1:0.01 to 1:100, ~~preferably from 1:0.1 to 1:50.~~

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The use~~ dispersants as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the comb polymers are used in an amount of from 0.01 to 5% by weight, based on the suspension of solids.

10. (Currently Amended) The use dispersants as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the suspension of solids comprises hydraulic binders based on cement, lime, plaster of Paris and anhydrite.

11. (Currently Amended) The use dispersants as claimed in ~~any of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 1, characterized in that wherein the suspension of solids comprises inorganic particles selected from the group consisting of ground rock, ground silicate, chalk, clays, porcelain slips, talc, pigments and carbon black.

12. (New) The dispersants as claimed in claim 8, wherein the molar ratios of the vinylic poly(alkylene oxide) compound (A) to the ethylenically unsaturated monomer compound (B) have been set to from 1:0.1 to 1:50.